## THE UNCHANGING CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD

HEB. 1318
How the world has changed since my father reached Korea 106 years ago. It took him a whole week just to get from Indiana to San Francisco as he started. And another three weeks to reach Korea by ship.

Today I can send a letter E-mail to Dr. Suh at the Presbyterian Seminary in Seoul, and he can be reading it in two minutes, if he happens to be near his computer. How the world has changed!

But I want to remind you that there is one thing that has not changed, and won't change, ever.

There is one thing that never changes. Listen to what the Bible says about the Lord Jesus Christ. Hebrews 13:8: JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME, YESTERDAY, TODAY AND FOREVER. The world changes. Christ does not.

I want to suggest two points this morning about how we Christians who believe in the unchanging Christ are to live in a world that is changing so fast all around us.

1. Christians must welcome change, because change is a fact of human existence.
2. But Christians do not worship change, because some change is for the good, and some changes are for the worse. Christians must learn to know the difference between the things that should change, and the things that should not change.

First the things that change.
We believers, who follow Jesus Christ, do not need to resent the way things change all around us. We can welcome most changes and
learn to live with them. For whether we like it or not the world will change.

Look at how the city of Seoul has changed. When my father first arrived in 1890 there were tigers in the hills around Seoul./ A mailman was killed by a tiger between Kwangwha-mun and where Yonsei University now stands. Today those hills around Seoul are covered with highrise apartments, and the problem between Kwanghwa-mun and Yonsei is not tigers, but the traffic jams.

Then, Seoul had less than 200,000 people. Today the annual increase of the city's population is more than 200,000 .

Now in the face of all this dizzying change, what is our Christian response? With some people, and many Christians have been among them, the first reaction to change is negative.

For the longest time there were Christians who still insisted that the world must be square and flat, not round, because the Bible spoke poetically of "the four corners of the earth". Must all Christians be like that?

Of course not. Our faith is not against change. We do not worship the past, even the religious past. In fact our God demands change, which is why we have a New Testament supplementing and fulfilling the Old Testament.

The truth is that the Bible's definition of a Christian is that he or she is one who has been changed. "If anyone is in Christ", says Paul in II Cor. 5:17, "he is a new creature; the old has passed away; behold the new has come".

The Christian is not one who clings to the past. We belong in the future; we move forward not backward./We are to be like St Paul, who said, "Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of

God in Jesus Christ." (Phil: 3: 13-14).
II. But there is another very important fact about change that the Christian must also recognize. Not all change is to be welcomed. Some things should not change.

From the Christian point of view, change in itself is neutral. Whether it is good or bad depends not on the fact of change, and not even on the desirability of change.

We must have some standard beyond the change itself, by which we can judge the change. What is our standard of judging whether a change is good or bad? I think you already know. For the Christian, of course, the standard is the Word of God, the Bible.

What is wrong with so many of us is that we cannot seem to tell the difference between change for the good and change for the bad? Why do we make so many wrong choices?

Let me tell you a story I heard from my professor long ago in college. He was a biology professor. He said he had heard about a scientist who was studying crabs, those sea creatures with shells and claws that live on the bottom of the sea. He found that one kind of crab has as its organ of balance, not something in the ear like human beings, but a small hollow cavity just beneath their shells. In this cavity, it places of few grains of sand every time it sheds its old shell and grows a new one. Then as it scuttles around the sea-bottom, the grains of sand roll around in the cavity, which is lined with many nerve endings and is very sensitive. The crab feels the sand and can tell by the feel whether it is standing straight up or is about to fall over.

Now one day a biologist at the University of Minnesota took some of those crabs just as they were shedding their shells and put iron filings instead of sand in the cavity. He then put them back in the tank, and when the new shells had grown on, suddenly held a large electro-magnet over them. And sure enough, just as he expected, those crazy crabs
turned flat on their backs and waved their claws helplessly in the air. In obedience to the sudden shifting of the iron filings they adjusted themselves to the pull of the magnet instead of to the pull of gravity. They were standing on their heads but thought they were right side up!

We are just as foolish as those crabs if we think we can make the right choice for the future in a changing world without the right standard. Until you and I have found God in Jesus Christ, we too are upside down and do not know it. We see things upside down and backwards. We are adjusted not to things as they are, but to things as we think they are, which is quite a nother matter.

God is to the universe as gravity is to matter. He and He alone determines what is up and down, right and wrong. So take away God, and it is no wonder that people make wrong choices, and cannot tell the difference between a good change and a bad change.

How then do we get straightened out? The obvious answer is to break away from the false center, the magnet, to the true center, which is Jesus Christ. That is not always easy though.

There is that within the heart of man, which like the iron filings in the crabs keeps pulling us around to the wrong, self-centered choice. And besides, we don't want to break away. The crabs felt fine there in the tank even though they were upside down. They didn't feel upside down; they only felt the pull of the false magnet.

It is not easy to break away from that kind of pull. First we must get rid of the iron filings. And the Bible calls these things which turn us apart to strange gods, which turn us upside down, which deceive us into wrong choices--the Bible calls then " $\sin$ ".

But the Bible also tells us the solution, the cure. There is a way to overcome the power of sin, and the way, of course, is Jesus Christ as know Him through the Scriptures.

You see, the story of the crabs doesn't quite fit the picture when we try to apply it to human beings. We are not crabs. Poor things, they didn't have any choice.

But we do. We can turn away from sin to the pull of a greater magnet, electric with power, the compelling magnetic love of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Then, anyone who believes, will begin to see things not as we think they are, and not as we feel they are, but as they really are. We will then be ready for all the great choices of the future in our wonderfully changing world. We will be ready for a Happy New Year.

## Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever.

- Samuel Hugh Moffett

Father came here one hundred years ago. I am sure there are some things he would not like very much about how things have
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변화하는 세계속의 변화하지않는 그리스도 (히브리서 13장8절)
106년전 저의 아버지가 한국에 가셨을때 이후로 이세계는 얼마나 많이 변화 해왔는지요. 나의 아버지 께서는 인디에나에서 샌프란씨스코까지 가시 는데 일주일이 걸렸고, 샌프란시스코에서 한국까지는 배를 타고 삼주일을 더 가야했습니다.

오늘날에는 제가 서울에 소재한 장로교신학대학원의 서정원학장에게 이-메일(E-mail)로 서신을 보낼 수 있고, 만일 그가 컴퓨터 곁에 있다면 단 2 분 이내에 그 편지를 받아볼 수 있을 것입니다. 이렇듯 세상은 지난 2 천년동안 꾸준히 변화되어 왔고, 특히 지나간 100 년동안은 더더욱 그러했습니다.

그러나, 저는 여러분에게 한가지 변하지 않아 온것, 영원히 변하지 않을 것을 여러분에게 상기시켜 드리고자 합니다.

절대로 변화하지 않을 한가지가 있습니다. 성경은 다음과 같이 말하고 있습니다. 히브리서 13 장 8 절말씀에 보면,
"예수 그리스도는 어제나 오늘이나 영원토록 동일하시다."
저는 이 아침 여러분에게, 과연 영원토록 변함이 없는 예수그리스도를 믿는 우리 크리스찬들이 어떻게 끈임없이 신속하게 변화해가는 이세상을 살 아가야 하는지에 관한 것 두가지를 증거하고자 합니다:

첫째, 우리 크리스찬들은 이와같은 세상의 변화에 대해서 긍정적으로 받아들여야 한다는 점입니다. 왜냐하면, 우리 인간의 존재성가운데 하나가 바로 그 '변화한다는 것' 이기 때문입니다.

둘째, 그럼에도 불구하고 우리 크리스찬들이 이 '변화한다는 사실' 그 자체를 숭상해서는 안된다는 점입니다. 다시말해서, 우리 크리스찬들은 '변 하는 것' 과 '변해서는 않되는 것' 의 차이를 알아야만 한다는 것입니다.

그러면, 먼저, '변하는 것' 에 대해 생각해 보십시다:
우리 믿는 사람들, 예수의 제자된 우리들은, 우리 주위의 것들이 변한다 고 해서 그것을 너무 심각하게 받아들일 필요는 없습니다. 오히려 우리는 그 변화되어짐을 수긍하고 그러한 변화와 함께 살아갈 수 있어야 합니다. 왜냐하면, 세상이란 우리가 좋고 싫고를 떠나서 변화해갈 수 밖에 없기 때문 입니다.

서울이 얼마나 많이 변화 하여왔는지 보십시오. 1980 년 제 아버지께서 서울에 처음 도착했을 때는, 언덕마다 호랑이들을 흔히 볼 수 있었다고 합니다. 지금있는 광화문에서 연세대학 사이를 다니던 우체부가 호랑이에게 물려 죽기도 했답니다. 오늘날 그 언덕들에는 고층아파트들로 늘어서 있고 광화문 에서 연세대학 까지의 문제가 되었던 호랑이들이 이제는 혼잡한 교통 난으로 바뀌게 되었지요.

그 당시, 100 여년전에는 서울인구가 이십만에 불과했는데, 지금은 매년 증가 되고 있는 서울의 인구만도 이십만이 넘는다고 합니다.

오늘날 이 어지러운 변화에 당면한 우리 크리스챤들은 어떻게 대처 하여야 할까요? 많은 크리스챤들은 변화에 대한 첫번째 반응은 부정적 이었습니다.

성경에서는 지구를 시적으로 표현하여서 " 지구의 네 귀퉁이" 라고 말하기 때문에 크리스챤들은 지구는 사각형이며 평평하고 둥글지 않다고 주장 해 왔습니다. 그렇다고 모든 크리스찬들이 똑같이 다 그러한 생각을 하여야 하 나요?

물론 아니지요, 우리들의 신앙은 변화를 반대하지 않습니다.
과거를 숭배 하지도 않습니다. 비록 그것이 종교적 차원의 과거 라고해도 숭배 하지않습니다. 우리의 하나님은 변화를 요구 하십니다.
그것은 왜 우리가 구약성서를 보충하고 완성하는 신약성서를 갖고있는 것과 같습니다.

사실, 크리스챤의 성서적 정의는 변화된 사람입니다. 사도바울은 고린도 후 서 5장 17 절 에서 이렇게 말씀 하십니다.
" 누구든지 그리스도 안에 있으면 새로운 피조물이라 이전 것은 지나갔으니 보라 새 것이 되었노라.

크리스챤들은 과거에 직찹되지 않고 미래에 속해 있으며 뒤로 물러서지않고 앞을 향하여 갑니다. 빌립보서 3:13-14 사도바울의 말씀과도 같습니다.
"뒤에있는 것은 잊어버리고 앞에 있는것을 잡으려고 푯대를 향하여 그리 스도 예수안에서 하나님이 위에서 부르신 부름의 상을 위하여 좇아가노라 "
II. 그러나 우리가 꼭 알아야 할 사실은, 모든 변화가 다 환영 받아야 하지는 않습니다. 어떤 것들은 변화 하지 말아야 합니다.

크리스챤 입장에서 보면 변화 그 자체는 중립적 입니다.
변화가 좋든지 나쁘든지 변화 한다는 사실에 의존 하지 않고, 변화의 여부 에도 의존 하지 않습니다.

그러므로 우리들은 변화 그 자체를 넘어서, 변화를 판단하는 기준을 갖어야 합니다. 변화 하는 것이 좋은지 나쁜지를 판단 하는 우리의 기준은 무엇입 니까? 여러분들이 아시는 바와 같이 크리스찬들의 기준은 성경에 있는 하나님의 말씀 입니다.

우리들 중에는 많은 사람들이 잘되는 변화와 잘못되는 변화를 구분 할 수 없는 듯이 보이는데 그것은 무엇이 잘못된 것입니까?
왜! 우리들은 많은 잘못된 선택을 하는 것입니까?
오래전 제가 대학에 다닐때 어느 교수로부터 들었던 이야기 하나를 말씀 드리고자 합니다. 그는 생물학자였습니다. 그 교수님은 어느 과학자가 껍 질(딱지)과 집게발을 가지고 바다 밑에 사는 '게'에 대해서 연구한 것을 소 개해주셨습니다.

그 과학자의 발견에 의하면, 어떤 '게'들은 평형을 유지할 수있는 기관 을 가지고 있는데,

우리 사람들처럼 귀안에 그 평형유지 기관을 가지고 있는 것이 아니라 (예: 그래서 사람들은 뱃멀미할 때 귀밓에 무엇을 블인다),
그의 쉘, 즉 게 딱지 밑에 조그마한 움푹파인 구멍(a small hollow cavity) 을 가지고 있다는 것입니다.

그리고 이 게는 옛 딱지를 벗고 새 딱지를 입을 때마다 그 구멍속에 몇 개의 모래 알갱이를 집어 넣습니다. 그러면 바다 밑을 다닐 때마다 그 모 래가 구멍 속에서 구르게 되고, 그 구멍은 많은 신경의 끝 부분과 연결되어 있는 민감한 부분으로
모래가 신경을 건드릴때 그 느낌으로써 게는 자신이 바로 서있는지 거꾸로 서있는지 뒤집어질 것인지를 알게된다고 합니다.

미네소타대학의 한 생물학자는 막 딱지를 벗으려고 하는 이 게들을 몇 마리 가져와서 그'게' 딱지 밑의 구멍속에 모래대신 쇠가루를 넣어 보았읍니다. 그리고는 물 탱크에 다시 넣은 다음에 새로운 딱지가 자랐을때 갑자기 딱지 위에 커다란 전기 자석을 놓았습니다
그 바다 '게' 들은 당황하며 뒤집어져서 공중에다 집게 발들을 허우적

대었던 것입니다. '게' 의 몸 안에 있던 쇠가루들이 갑작스런 이동에 따라 서 그 중력 대신에 자력에 의해서 이끌렸던 것입니다.
'게'들은 거꾸로 있으면서도 똑바로 서있다고 생각했던 것이지요.

우리도 이와같이 올바른 표준없이 이 변화하는 세계속에서 미래를 위한 바 른 선택을 할 수 있다고 생각한다면 그것은 이 쇠가루를 담고 서있는 '게' 들처럼 어리석은 것이 아니고 무엇이겠습니까?
저나 여러분이나, 우리모두, 예수안에서 하나님을 발견하기 전까지는 뒤집 혀 살아가고 있으면서도 자신이 뒤집혀 있다는 사실을 모르는 것입니다.
왜냐하면, 사물을 있는 그대로 보고 순응하기보다는 우리 스스로의 생각대 로 사물을 보고 판단하며 살아가기 때문입니다.
그리고 이러한 판단은 실재와는 전혀 다른 결과를 초래하게 되는 것입니다.
우주에 대한 하나님의 관계는 물질에 대한 인력의 관계와도 같습니다.
오직 하나님만이 우리들에게 바로 선 것과 거꾸로된 것과 옳은 것을 알게 하고 결정하게 하십니다.
우리들은 하나님을 등지고서는 이러한 바다의 '게' 처럼 잘못된 것을 선택 할 수 밖에 없으며 또한 좋은 변화나 잘못된 변화의 차이점 조차도 알 수가 없는 것입니다.

그러면 어떻게 하여야 좋은 변화를 선택 할 수 있습니까?
분명한 대답은 거짓된 자기중심, 곧 자석의 힘으로부터 벗어나서 참된 중심 이신 예수 그리스도 에게로 나아가는 것입니다.

사람들의 마음속에는 '게' 안에 있는 쇠가루처럼 잘못된 자기중심의 선택을 하며 자기중심에서 벗어나기를 원하지 않습니다.
'게' 들은 뒤집혀 있었으나 뒤집혀 있다는 사실도 느끼지 못하고 좋아 하였으며 오로지 속이고 있는 자석에게 이끌릴 뿐 이었읍니다.

이와같이 우리도 우리들을 속이려고 하는 자석으로부터 벗어나는 것이 쉽지 않습니다. 그것은 우리로 하여금 잘못된 선택을 하게하며 잘 못 되어도 그 괴로움울 모르게 하는 쇠가루를 성경 에서는 '죄' 라고 합니다.

하지만 감사하게도 성경은 우리에게 그 해결책과 치료법을 말해주고있습니 다. 즉, 죄의 길을 극복하는 것은, 다름아닌, 성경을 통하여 예수 그리스 도를 알아가는 것입니다.

자, 보십시요. 바다 '게'에 대한 이야기는 우리사람들에게 잘 적용
되지 않지요? 왜냐하면 우리는 바다에 사는' 게'가 아니기 때문입니다.
이 불쌍한 바다 '게' 들은 다른 선택의 여지가 없습니다.

하지만, 우리 인간들에게는 우리의 죄를 떠나서 그리스도의 그 "강권하시는 사랑의 자석의 힘"으로 말미암아 우리는 변화되고 올바로 설 수 있는 것입 니다.

그러므로, 누구든지 우리의 구세주되시는 예수 그리스도를 믿으면, 우리 들이 생각하고 느끼는 대로 보는 것이 아니라 '진실' 그 자체를 볼 수 있게 되며,
그럼으로써 우리는 이 놀라웁게 변화되어가는 이 변화무쌍한 세계속에서도 우리의 미래에 대한 모든 올바르고도 값진 선택을 할 수 있게 되는 것입니 다.

이것이 또한 우리가 희망차게 맞이하는 이 1997 년 새해를 위한 참된 준 비인 것입니다.
" 예수 그리스도는 어제나 오늘이나 영원토록 동일하시니라 "
아멘

## THE UNCHANGING CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD

How the world has changed since my father reached Korea 106 years ago. It took him a whole week just to get from Indiana to San Francisco as he started. And another three weeks to reach Korea by ship.

Today I can send a letter E-mail to the Presbyterian Seminary in Seoul, and they can be reading it in two minutes, if anyone happens to be near the computer. How the world has changed!

But I want to remind you that there is one thing that has not changed, and won't change, ever.

There is one thing that never changes. Listen to what the Bible says about the Lord Jesus Christ. Hebrews 13:8: JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME, YESTERDAY, TODAY AND FOREVER. The world changes. Christ does not.

I want to suggest two points this morning about how we Christians who believe in the unchanging Christ are to live in a world that is changing so fast all around us.

1. Christians must welcome change, because change is a fact of human existence.
2. But Christians do not worship change, because some change is for the good, and some changes are for the worse. Christians must learn to know the difference between the things that should change, and the things that should not change.

First the things that change.

We who follow Jesus Christ, do not need to resent the way things change all around us. We can welcome most changes and learn to live with them. For whether we like it or not the world will change.

Look at how the city of Seoul has changed. When my father first arrived in 1890 there were tigers in the hills around Seoul. A mailman was killed by a tiger between Kwangwha-mun and where Yonsei University now stands. Today those hills around Seoul are covered with highrise apartments, and the problem between Kwanghwa-mun and Yonsei is not tigers, but the traffic jams.

Then, Seoul had less than 200,000 people. Today the annual increase of the city's population is more than 200,000 .

Now in the face of all this dizzying change, what is our Christian response? With some people, and many Christians have been among them, the first reaction to change is negative.

For the longest time there were Christians who still insisted that the world must be square and flat, not round, because the Bible spoke poetically of "the four corners of the earth". Must all Christians be like that?

Of course not. Our faith is not against change. We do not worship the past, even the religious past. In fact our God demands change, which is why we have a New Testament supplementing and fulfilling the Old Testament.

The truth is that the Bible's definition of a Christian is that he or she is one who has been changed. "If anyone is in Christ", says Paul in II Cor. 5:17, "he is a new creature; the old has passed away; behold the new has come".

The Christian is not one who clings to the past. We belong in the
future; we move forward not backward. We are to be like St Paul, who said, "Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Jesus Christ." (Phil: 3: 13-14).
II. But there is another very important fact about change that the Christian must also recognize. Not all change is to be welcomed. Some things should not change.

From the Christian point of view, change in itself is neutral. Whether it is good or bad depends not on the fact of change, and not even on the desirability of change.

We must have some standard beyond the change itself, by which we can judge the change. What is our standard of judging whether a change is good or bad? I think you already know. For the Christian, of course, the standard is the Word of God, the Bible.

What is wrong with so many of us is that we cannot seem to tell the difference between change for the good and change for the bad? Why do we make so many wrong choices?

Let me tell you a story I heard from my professor long ago in college. He was a biology professor. He said he had heard about a scientist who was studying crabs, those sea creatures with shells and claws that live on the bottom of the sea. He found that one kind of crab has as its organ of balance, not something in the ear like human beings, but a small hollow cavity just beneath their shells. In this cavity, it places of few grains of sand every time it sheds its old shell and grows a new one. Then as it scuttles around the sea-bottom, the grains of sand roll around in the cavity, which is lined with many nerve endings and is very sensitive. The crab feels the sand and can tell by the feel whether it is standing straight up or is about to fall over.

Now one day a biologist at the University of Minnesota took some of those crabs just as they were shedding their shells and put iron filings instead of sand in the cavity. He then put them back in the tank, and when the new shells had grown on, suddenly held a large electro-magnet over them. And sure enough, just as he expected, those crazy crabs turned flat on their backs and waved their claws helplessly in the air. In obedience to the sudden shifting of the iron filings they adjusted themselves to the pull of the magnet instead of to the pull of gravity. They were standing on their heads but thought they were right side up!

We are just as foolish as those crabs if we think we can make the right choice for the future in a changing world without the right standard. Until you and I have found God in Jesus Christ, we too are upside down and do not know it. We see things upside down and backwards. We are adjusted not to things as they are, but to things as we think they are, which is quite another matter.

God is to the universe as gravity is to matter. He and He alone determines what is up and down, right and wrong. So take away God, and it is no wonder that people make wrong choices, and cannot tell the difference between a good change and a bad change.

How then do we get straightened out? The obvious answer is to break away from the false center, the magnet, to the true center, which is Jesus Christ. That is not always easy though.

There is that within the heart of man, which like the iron filings in the crabs keeps pulling us around to the wrong, self-centered choice. And besides, we don't want to break away. The crabs felt fine there in the tank even though they were upside down. They didn't feel upside down; they only felt the pull of the false magnet.

It is not easy to break away from that kind of pull. First we must get rid of the iron filings. And the Bible calls these things which turn
us apart to strange gods, which turn us upside down, which deceive us into wrong choices--the Bible calls then " $s i n$ ".

But the Bible also tells us the solution, the cure. There is a way to overcome the power of sin, and the way, of course, is Jesus Christ as know Him through the Scriptures.

You see, the story of the crabs doesn't quite fit the picture when we try to apply it to human beings. We are not crabs. Poor things, they didn't have any choice.

But we do. We can turn away from sin to the pull of a greater magnet, electric with power, the compelling magnetic love of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Then, anyone who believes, will begin to see things not as we think they are, and not as we feel they are, but as they really are. We will then be ready for all the great choices of the future in our wonderfully changing world. We will be ready for a Happy New Year.

Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever.

- Samuel Hugh Moffett

Father came here one hundred years ago. I am sure there are some things he would not like very much about how things have changed since his day. Traffic jams, and money madness, and the great tragedy that has split this wonderful country in two. He would pray as earnestly with us for Korean reunification, north and south, as he worked for Korean independence in the sam-il undong. But there is also so much that would make him very pleased and proud. I know his heart would rejoice at the stories of the Korean martyrs who died rather than betray their Lord. He would be amazed and happy to find that instead of the two little churches he found in Seoul a hundred years ago, there are perhaps as many as 7,000 Protestant churches alone, and many Catholic churches, in this city today. He would find it hard to believe that Korea now has so many millions of Christians who faithfully worship the Lord that now by some counts there seem to be as many Presbyterians in Korea as there are in the United States.

But above all he would thank God to find that the Jesus Christ whom he loved and served for forty-six years in this land, is the same risen Jesus who lives in your hearts and minds to this day. Korea has greatly changed. And you have lived and suffered through all its many changes. But you have also discovered that in the midst of change there is that which changes not: Jesus Christ, Lord of the past and the present, and also Lord of Korea's future. "Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever".

-- Samuel Hugh Moffett<br>Seoul, Korea; 1990

moffett/sermons/change.\#1
Thank you for the warm welcome you have given to our family as we come back to Korea. And what a great privilege it is to be back. Now I really feel at home again, for Korea is my kohyang. It is home for everything but my tongue which somehow refuses to speak Korean and keeps on speaking in English. I am Korea-born. I was brought up on the banks of the Taedong River beneath beautiful moran-bong, but I still can't speak Korean well! I have too quickly forgotten whatever I once knew. Please forgive me.

But I come back, as a filial son, to honor my father who landed here in Korea one hundred years ago. It was his twentysixth birthday, Jan 25,1890 . He had graduated from seminary in 1888, and though he wanted to go to the mission field, he took the pastorate of a little church in Missouri to test himself. If the people ask me to stay after one year, he said to himself, I will go to Korea as a missionary; but if they don't want me to stay, that will be a pretty good sign that God doesn't think I would make a very good missionary. How glad we are, as a family, that they did indeed ask him to stay, and that he said, "No, you are very kind, but the Lord is telling me He wants me to go to Korea."

So now three of his five sons have come to honor him. The other two are in heaven. Four of the sons became ministers. Two of his daughters-in-law are with us, and a grandson who bears his name, Samuel Moffett, and a great-granddaughter. All the rest of the family send greetings. Father now has eight grandsons, five granddaughters, 9 great-grandsons, and 8 great-granddaughters. We thank you for your prayers and your welcome and for remembering Ma Moksa who worked with you to build up for God's glory the great Korean church. The Korean church is indeed a miracle of God's grace.

What a wonderful 100 years this has been. Through them all the Lord has blessed us as a family, and has blessed you as members in Christ of one of the greatest Christian churches in the world.

Fanfiel-Ot. 18,2003

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## 변화하는 세게속의 성탄절 (히브리서 13 장 8 절)

2천년전 베들레헴에서 아기예수가 탄생한 이래로 세상은 얼마나 많이 변했습니까?

서쪽하늘의 큰 별을 보고 따라왔던 동방박사 세사람조차 도, 그들이 참으로 지혜로왔다 하여도, 지구의 반대편 아시 아의 끝에 위치한 동방의 나라 코리아는 들어보지도 못했을 것입니다. 또한, 먼 지구 저편에 아메리카라 불리우는 또하 나의 대륙이 있음을 그들은 결코 알지 못했을 것입니다. 실 로 세상은 지난 2천년동안 끈임없이 변화해 왔습니다.

106 년전 저의 아버지가 한국에 가실때는, 이곳 동부에서 샌프란씨스코까지 가는데 일주일이나 걸렸고, 거기서 한국까 지 삼주일을 더 허비해야 했습니다.

오늘날에는 제가 서울에 소재한 장로교신학대학원의 서 정원학장에게 이-메일(E-mai1)로 서신을 보낼 수 있고, 만일 그가 컴퓨터 곁에 있다면 단 2분이내에 그 편지를 받아볼 수 있을 것입니다. 이렇둣 세상은 지난 2천년동안 꾸준히 변화 되어 왔고, 특히 지나간 100 년동안은 더더욱 그러했습니다.

그럼에도 불구하고, 저는 여러분에게, 한가지 변하지 않 은 것, 그리고 필경 앞으로도 영원히 변하지 않을 것이 한가 지 있음을 여러분에게 상기시켜 드리고자 합니다.

그것은 바로 예수 그리스도입니다. 성경은 다음과 같이 말하고 있습니다: 히브리서 13 장 8 절에 보면,
"예수 그리스도는 어제나 오늘이나 영원토록 동일하시 다."

저는 이 아침 여러분에게, 과연 영원토록 변함이 없는 예수그리스도를 믿는 우리 크리스찬들이 어떻게 끈임없이 신 속하게 변화해가는 이세상을 살아가야 하는지에 관한 것 두 가지를 증거하고자 합니다:

첫째, 우리 크리스찬들은 이와같은 세상의 변화에 대해서 긍정적으로 받아들여야 한다는 점입니다. 왜냐하면, 우리 인간의 존재성가운데 하나가 바로 그 '변화한다는 것' 이기 때문입니다.

둘째, 그럼에도 불구하고 우리 크리스찬들이 이 '변화한 다는 사실' 그 자체를 숭상해서는 안된다는 점입니다. 다시 말해서, 우리 크리스챤들은 '변하는 것’ 과 '변해서는 않되는 것' 의 차이를 알아야만 한다는 것입니다.

그러면, 먼저, '변하는 것' 에 대해 생각해 보십시다:
우리 믿는 사람들, 예수의 제자된 우리들은, 우리 주위의 것 들이 변한다고 해서 그것을 너무 심각하게 받아들일 필요는 없습니다. 오히려 우리는 그 변화되어짐을 수긍하고 그러한 변화와 함께 살아갈 수 있어야 합니다. 왜냐하면, 세상이란 우리가 좋고 싫고를 떠나서 변화해갈 수 밖에 없기 때문입니 다.

일례로, 서울을 보십시요. 제 아버지가 서울에 처음 도 착했을 때, 언덕마다 호랑이를 흔히 볼 수 있었다고 합니다. 그런데 오늘날 그 언덕에는 고충아파트들로 꽉 차있지 않습 니까?

그 당시에는, 그러니까 100 여년전에는 서울인구가 이십 만에 불과했는데, 지금은 매년 증가되고 있는 서울의 인구만 도 이십만이 넘는다고 합니다.

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IN A CHANGING WORLD
CHRISTMAS AND (HEB.13:8)
How the world has changed since Jesus was born in Bethlehem 2000 years ago!
Even the three wise men who followed the star west, though they were very wise, had never heard of a country of Koreans at the other end of Asia. And they never dreamed that on the far side of the world there was a whole continent which would one day be called America. The world has changed in 2000 years. 106 years ago my father went to Korea, It yous ago took him a whole week just to get from the East coast to San Francisco. And another
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Today I can send a letter E-mail to Dr. Sun Jung-Woon, at the Presbyterian Seminary in Seoul, and he can be reading it in two minutes, if he happens to be near his computer. The world has citamily changed it 2000 ears, and still more in 100 years.

But I want to remind you that there is one thing that has not changed, and won't change, ever.

That is Jesus Christ. Listen to what the Bible says in our text, Hebrews 13:8: JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME YESTERDAY TODAY AND FOREVER.

I want to suggest two points this morning about how we Christians who believe in the unchanging Christ are to live in a world that is changing so fast all us.

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Look at how the city of seoul has changed. When my father first arrived, there were tigers in the hills. Today those same hills around seoul are covered with high-rise apartments

Then Seoul had less than 200,000 people; today the annual increase of the city's population is more than 200,000.
shells and claws that live on the bottom of the sea. He found that one kind of crab has as its organ of balance, not something in the ear like human beings; but a small hollow cavity just beneath their shells. In this cavity, it places of few grains of sand everytime it sheds its old shell and grows a new one. Then as it scuttles around the sea-bottom, the grains of sand roll around in the cavity, which is lined with many nerve endings and is very sensitive. The crab feels the sand and can tell by the feel whether it is standing straight up or is about to fall over.

Now one day a biologist at the University of Minnesota took some of those crabs just as they were shedding their shells and put iron filings instead of sand in the cavity. He then put them back in the tank, and when the new shells had grown on, suddenly held a large electro-magnet over them. And sure enough, just as he expected, those crazy crabs turned flat on their backs and waved their claws helplessly in the air. In obedience to the sudden shifting of the iron filings they adjusted themselves to the pull of the magnet instead of to the pull of gravity. They were standing on their heads but thought they were right side up!

We are just as foolish as those crabs if we think we can make the right choice for the future in a changing world without the right standard. Until you and $I$ have found God in Jesus Christ, we too are upside down and do, not know it. We see things upside down and backwards. We are adjusted not to things as they are, but to things as we think they are, which is quite another matter. God is to the universe as gravity is to matter. He and He alone determines what is up and down, right and wrong. So take away God, and it is no wonder that people make wrong choices, and cannot tell the difference between a good change and a bad change.

How then do we get straightened out? The obvious answer is to break away from the false center, the magnet, to the true center, which is Jesus Christ. That is not always easy though. There is that within the heart of man, which like the iron filings in the crabs keeps pulling us around to the wrong, self-centered choice. And besides, we don't want to break away. The crabs felt fine there in the tank even though they were upside down. They
didn't feel upside down; they only felt the pull of the false magnet. It is not easy to break away from that kind of pull. First we must get rid of the iron filings. And the Bible calls these things which turn us apart to strnange gods, which turn us upside down, which deceive us into wrong choices--the Bible calls then "sin".

But the Bible also tells us the solution, the cure. There is a way to overcome the power of sin, and the way, of course, is Jesus Christ as know Him through the Scriptures.

You see, the story of the crabs doesn't quite fit the picture when we try to apply it to human beings. We are not crabs. Poor things, they didn't have any choice. But we do. We can turn away from sin to the pull of a greater magnet, electric with power, the compelling magnetic love of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Then, anyone who believes, will begin to see things not as we think they are, and not as we feel they are, but as they reaally are. We will then be ready for all the great choices of the future in our wonderfully changing world.

JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME, YESTERDAY, TODAY AND FOREVER

Thank you for the warm welcome you have given to our family as we come back to Korea. And what a great privilege it is to be back. Now I really feel at home again, for Korea is my kohyang. It is home for everything but my tongue which somehow refuses to speak Korean and keeps on speaking in English. I am Korea-born. I was brought up on the banks of the Taedong River beneath beautiful moran-bong, but I still can't speak Korean well! I have too quickly forgotten whatever I once knew. Please forgive me.

But I come back, as a filial son, to honor my father who landed here in Korea one hundred years ago. It was his twentysixth birthday, Jan 25 , 1890 He had graduated from seminary in 1888, and though he wanted to go to the mission field, he took the pastorate of a little church in Missouri to test himself. If the people ask me to stay after one year, he said to himself, I will go to Korea as a missionary; but if they don't want me to stay, that will be a pretty good sign that God doesn't think I would make a very good missionary. How glad we are, as a family, that they did indeed ask him to stay, and that he said, "No, you are very kind, but the Lord is telling me He wants me to go to Korea."

So now three of his five sons have come to honor him. The other two are in heaven. Four of the sons became ministers. Two of his daughters-in-law are with us, and a grandson who bears his name, Samuel Moffett, and a great-granddaughter. All the rest of the family send greetings. Father now has eight grandsons, five granddaughters, 9 great-grandsons, and 8 great-granddaughters. We thank you for your prayers and your welcome and for remembering Ma Moksa who worked with you to build up for God's glory the great Korean church. The Korean church is indeed a miracle of God's grace.

What a wonderful 100 years this has been. Through them all the Lord has blessed us as a family, and has blessed you as members in Christ of one of the greatest Christian churches in the world.

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